

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 AID-05 /098 W

-----251725Z 105156 /41

O R 251618Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1382

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1628

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR MO CG AO

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR MEDIATION OF ZAIRE-ANGOLA DISPUTE

REF STATE 66446

1. CHARGE CALLED MARCH 25 ON SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL PRESENT IN RABAT, SECRETARY-GENERAL EL-IRAQUI (FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI WAS WITH KING IN MARRAKECH). ALSO PRESENT WERE POLCOUNSELOR AND MFA DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA BISBIS. CHARGE MADE POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL, REMARKING THAT GOM HAD ALREADY DEMONSTRATED PUBLIC CONCERN OVER ZAIRE SITUATION. IRAQUI POINTED TO KING HASSAN'S DISPATCH OF MOROCCAN ISLAMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER TO ZAIRE AND VISIT OF ZAIRIAN VICE PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER TO MOROCCO AS REFLECTING MOROCCAN CONCERN. IRAQUI HAD NOT RECEIVED REPORT ON RESULTS OF
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MINISTERIAL MISSION TO ZAIRE, AND KING WOULD BE MEETING WITH ZAIRIAN EMISSARY LATER IN DAY. IRAQUI EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR GOAL OF AWAKENING CONCERN OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND STATED THAT GOM FAVORABLE TO AFRICAN SOLUTION. READING FROM REUTER REPORT OF PRESIDENT'S MARCH 24 PRESS CONFERENCE, HE INDICATED APPROVAL OF REMARKS ON ZAIRE.

2. IRAQUI ASKED WHICH AFRICAN COUNTRIES USG FELT WERE LESS CONCERNED THAN OTHERS, AND WHETHER ZAIRE WOULD RAISE THE DISPUTE WITHIN THE OAU OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. HE POINTED OUT THAT MOROCCO'S SUSPENSION OF PARTICIPATION IN AOU PRECLUDED MOROCCAN ROLE IN THAT FORUM. IN RESPONSE, CHARGE INDICATED THAT DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN GENERAL AND HAD CONTAINED ONLY FEW EXAMPLES OF COUNTRIES WITH WHICH EFFORTS MIGHT BE USEFULLY EXERTED. HE NOTED MAURITANIAN DECISION TO SEND AN EMISSARY TO ZAIRE AS A POSITIVE SIGN, AND SAID EMBASSY HAD NO INFORMATION ON ZAIRIAN INTENTIONS CONCERNING OAU. IRAQUI ALSO ASKED FOR DETAILS ABOUT CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION. CHARGE SAID EMBASSY HAD REQUESTED MORE INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON (WE STILL AWAIT STATE 64155 AND 62954, CITED IN REFTTEL, WHICH WE HAD ASKED DEPT TO REPEAT IMMEDIATE TO RABAT).

3. IRAQUI UNDERTOOK TO COMMUNICATE THE DEMARCHE TO MARRAKECH, AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HAVING FURTHER DETAILS AS THEY BECAME AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY. HE COMMENTED ON "PERSONAL BASIS" THAT ZAIRE MUST NOT BE "ALLOWED TO BECOME ANOTHER ANGOLA."

4. FURTHER BACKGROUND: ON HIS ARRIVAL IN KINSHASA MARCH 21, ISLAMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER SIDI BABA REPORTEDLY SAID THAT "ALL THAT TOUCHES AN AFRICAN COUNTRY AS IMPORTANT AS ZAIRE TOUCHES THE WHOLE CONTINENT." AFTER DELIVERING MESSAGE TO MOBUTU ON MARCH 22, HE TOLD THE PRESS THAT MOROCCO WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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"WORRIED ABOUT THE AGGRESSION AGAINST ZAIRE" AND WAS "SEEKING INFORMATION" ON THE SITUATION. HE ADDED THAT THE GOM SAW IT AS A QUESTION OF "AGGRESSION ... BY A GROUP WHO SERVED THE BELGIAN AND PORTUGUESE COLONIALISTS" AND WHO TODAY WERE SERVING "ANOTHER FORM OF COLONIALISM." HE SAID THE "CERTAIN JEALOUS POWERS" WERE SEEKING TO UNDERMINE ZAIRE'S "ECONOMIC STABILITY AND UNITY." IN ADDITION, WELL PLACED FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER HIMSELF HAVE RECENTLY EXPRESSED TO US MOROCCO'S CONCERN OVER AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY THE ZAIRE SITUATION AND THE CASTRO AND PRODGORNY TRAVELS. ONE SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 24 THAT MOROCCO WOULD HELP ZAIRE IN ANY WAY IT COULD, EITHER WITH ARMS AND/OR MONEY WITH WHICH TO BUY THEM. FINALLY, PRESS HAS HEADLINED ZAIRIAN VICE PREMIER AND FONMIN KARL-I-BOND'S ARRIVAL IN MARRAKECH MARCH 24 WITH A "VERY IMPORTANT" MOBUTU MESSAGE TO THE KING.

5. COMMENT: DISILLUSIONED OVER THE OAU'S HANDLING OF THE

SAHARA AND BEININ DISPUTES, MOROCCO INCREASINGLY VIEWS
AAFRICA IN TERMS OF FRIENDS AND FOES, THE FOES BEING
THOSE "RADICAL" STATES PERCEIVED AS BEING UNDER SOVIET
INFLUENCE. THE GOM WILL BE WATCHING OUR MOVES CAREFULLY
FOR SIGNS OF FAILURE TO SUPPORT OUR FRIEND MOBUTU. ANGOLA
EXPERIENCE IS FRESH IN THE MINDS OF MOROCCAN LEADERS, AND
WE ARE STILL FREQUENTLY CRITICIZED IN PRIVATE HERE FOR
FAILURE TO HAVE ACTED MORE VIGOROUSLY.

6. TO FACILITATE DIALOGUE, WHICH GOM CLEARLY WELCOMES,
REQUEST DEPARTMENT KEEP UN INFORMED OF DETAILS OF ZAIRE
DEVELOPMENTS AND PROVIDE RESPONSES TO IRAQUI'S QUESTION
PARA 2.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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To: STATE
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